gesting that the rate of subsidy on the production of Janata Cloth should be increased from Rs. 2|- per square metre to Rs. 3|- per square metre. In the Union Budget presented to Parliament on 29-2-88, it has been proposed to increase the rate of subsidy on Janata Cloth from Rs. 2|- per square metre to Rs. 2.75 per square metre.

Excise duty on electricity

1393. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of Union Excise duty on electricity paid by (i) Maharashtra State Electricity Board (ii) Tata Power Supply Company (iii) TAPS in Maharashtra to Government of India from April 1, 1979 to September 30, 1984;

(b) what is the total amount of refund made to the Government of Maharashtra during this period; and

(c) whether there is any dispute about this amount raised by the Maharashtra Government; if so, what is the response of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) According to departmental figures, an amount of Rs. 159.71 crores was collected as Central Excise Duty on electricity generated in Maharashtra during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30-9-84).

(b) On the basis of the percentage share prescribed in the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980, the share of Maharashtra Government for the above period worked out to Rs. 131.57 crores and this amount was paid to the State Government on provisional basis, subject to final adjustment on the basis of certified figures of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has addressed the Union Finance Minister stating that an amount of Rs. 162.08 crores was collected in that State by way of excise duty on electricity during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30th September, 1984), whereas an amount of Rs. 131.57 crores was refunded by the Government of India. He has, therefore, requested for release of the balance amount of Rs. 30.51 crores. The Finance Minister has replied to the Chief Minister stating that since the refund of net proceeds of excise duty has been made in accordance with the provisions of Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980 and the Rules made thereunder, it was not possible to reopen the share already paid to the State Government.

Promotion of sericulture

1394. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have urged the State Governments to promote sericulture in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Government have since modernised the functioning of the Central Silk Board in order to increase silk production; and

(d) what other steps Government have taken to promote silk production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Govts. have been urged not to divert the plan outlays earmarked for Sericulture to other sectors. They have also been requested to avail of funds available under various rural development programmes for promotion of sericulture in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to encourage the development of silk industry, the Central Silk Board has established the

following major units in the country for R & D and Extension support:

(i) 3 Central Sericulture Research & Training Institutes.

(ii) 1 Central Technological Research & Training Institute.

(iii) 15 Regional Sericulture Research Stations.

(iv) 64 Research & Extension Centres.

(v) 262 Chawki Rearing Centres.

(vi) 21 Silkwork Seed Production Centres and 14 Basic Seed Farms under the National Silkwork Seed Project.

(vii) 20 Basic Seed Multiplication Tasar Centres.

Besides, the Intensive Sericulture Development Projects are being implemented in the States of West Bengal, Orissa and the North-East Region.

Hike in textile prices

1395. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an alarming spurt in textile prices in the country during the last three months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NTC has increased the price of Janata cloth;

(c) whether the poor people in the country have been severely affected due to hike in textile prices; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) NTC produces controlled cloth. There has been no increase in the prices of controlled cloth after 1st October, 1987.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Working of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution

1396. SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of performance of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution so far; and

(b) what was the degree of pollution before the Board was constituted and what is the degree now, with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The performance of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution is related to its objectives of promoting cleanliness of streams and wells and improving quality of air and preventing, controlling and abating air pollution in the country. The performance of the Board so far includes the following:

(i) National water quality monitoring net-work to ascertain the water quality status of rivers and lakes has been set up.

(ii) National ambient air quality monitoring network in cities has been set-up.

(iii) Industry specific Minimal National Standard (MINAS) for effluents and emissions have been evolved.

(iv) National inventory of water polluting industries to ascertain the statu regarding effluent treatment plants in th large and medium sector industries ha been prepared.

(v) River basin studies to asses an monitor water quality and prop management of water resources hav been conducted.

(vi) The Ganga river basin studies ha been conducted in depth resulting in t preparation of the Ganga Action Pl for prevention and control of pollutio in the Ganga.

(vii) Water quality in sea coasts being monitored.